MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

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AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during August 2006 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 12 percent from August 2005 and up 45 percent from July 2006 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 545,000 pounds live weight, down 21,000 pounds from August 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, the same as the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,099 pounds, was up 8 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 255,000 pounds live weight, down 6,000 pounds from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,000 head, the same as August 2005. The average live weight, at 264 pounds, was up 12 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 8,000 pounds live weight, down 4,000 pounds from last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 100 head, the same as August 2005. The average live weight, at 112 pounds, was down 15 pounds from the previous year.

United States- Commercial red meat production totaled 4.24 billion pounds in August, up 4 percent from the 4.10 billion pounds produced in August 2005.

Beef production, at 2.44 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.13 million head, up 5 percent from August 2005. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,275 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.2 million pounds, 4 percent above August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 66,700 head, up 2 percent from August 2005. The average live weight was unchanged last year, at 347 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.77 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.09 million head, 1 percent above August 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 263 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.6 million pounds, was down 5 percent from August 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 227,000 head, 1 percent below last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, down 5 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2006 commercial red meat production was 31.3 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

August 2005 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. August 2006 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States- Egg production totaled 7.64 billion during August 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.56 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 65 million were

egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2006 averaged 341 million, up slightly from last year. **August egg production** per 100 layers was 2,239 eggs, up 1 percent from August 2005

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 2006, totaled 342 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 342 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.73 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2006, averaged 72.6 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from September 1, 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during August 2006 totaled 34.9 million, down 10 percent from August 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.8 million on September 1, 2006, up 4 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 253,000 during August 2006, down 3 percent from August 2005.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during August 2006 totaled 809 million, down slightly from August 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 656 million on September 1, 2006, up slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.63 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during August 2006, up 2 percent from August 2005.

THIRD QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Milk production in West Virginia totaled 49 million pounds during the July - September quarter of 2006. This was up 1 million pounds from the same quarter last year but down 2 million pounds from the April - June 2006 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 13,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter and the same quarter last year.

United States - Milk production in the U.S. during the July - September quarter totaled 44.7 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from the July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.12 million head, 57,000 head more than the same period last year.

OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

West Virginia - The forecast for the 2006 **apple** production is 90 million pounds (2.14 million, 42-lb. bushel equivalents), the same as the August 1 forecast, but up 3 million pounds or 3 percent from the 2005 crop.

Other hay production is forecast at 1,008,000 tons, up 4 percent from the 2005 crop. Other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 560,000 acres in 2006, up 20,000 acres from 2005. Yield is expected to average 1.8 tons per acre, the same as last year's yield. Due to program modifications, October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not being published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2007.

United States - The final **apple** production forecast for the 2006 crop year is 9.84 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the August forecast but down less than 1 percent from 2005. Increases in production from August 2006 were shown for Michigan, Washington, New York and North Carolina. Pennsylvania and West Virginia production did not change from the August forecast, while Virginia showed a decrease in apple production. Growers in the Eastern, Central, and Western apple producing regions are expecting increases in production compared with the August forecast.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures production is forecast at 74.5 million tons, up 5 percent from the August forecast but down 2 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.33 tons per acre, up 0.15 ton from August but down 0.05 ton from 2005. Harvested area is forecast at 22.4 million acres, unchanged from August but slightly above the previous year's acreage.

Other Hay production is forecast at 72.5 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast but down 3 percent from 2005. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.80 tons, up 0.03 ton from the August forecast but down 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 40.3 million acres, is unchanged from August but up 3 percent from the previous year.

Corn production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, down 2 percent from both last month and 2005. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 153.5 bushels per acre, down 1.2 bushels from September but 5.6 bushels higher than last year. If realized, the yield would be the second largest on record, behind 2004. Forecast yields are lower than September across the central Corn Belt as early harvest results revealed that the hot, dry summer conditions had reduced yield potential more than anticipated. However, producers in the northern and eastern Corn Belt reported better than expected yields due mainly to timely rainfall during the growing season. Expected yields across the northern and southern Great

Plains are unchanged from last month. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States bringing total corn planted acres to 78.6 million acres, down 1 percent from June and 4 percent lower than 2005.

Area harvested and to be harvested for grain, at 71.0 million acres, is down 1 percent from September and 5 percent below 2005.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.19 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the September forecast and up 4 percent from the 2005 crop. If realized, this would be the highest production on record. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.8 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from September but down 0.2 bushel from last year's record high yield. Compared with last month, yield forecasts are unchanged or higher in all States except South Dakota. The States with the largest expected increase from September are Illinois and Virginia, both up 3.0 bushels from last month. Timely rains and cooler temperatures improved yield expectations in the central and northern Corn Belt. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States with soybean planted area now at 75.6 million acres, up 1 percent from June and up 5 percent from 2005. Expected area for harvest, at 74.5 million acres, is up 1 percent from September and 5 percent above 2005.

SMALL GRAINS SUMMARY 'September Ag Survey Results'

West Virginia - Winter wheat production for 2006 totaled 366,000 bushels, up 22 percent from 300,000 bushels in 2005. Harvested area for grain totaled 6,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2005. Area planted totaled 8,000 acres, up 14 percent from last year. The average yield of 61.0 bushels was up 1 bushel from the previous year. Estimates for oats, barley and rye are not included in the estimating program for West Virginia.

United States - All wheat production totals 1.81 billion bushels in 2006, up 1 percent from the last forecast but 14 percent below 2005. Grain area is 46.8 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 38.7 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from August but down 3.3 bushels from last year. The level of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.30 billion bushels, down 13 percent; other spring wheat, 460 million bushels, down 9 percent; Durum wheat, 53.5 million bushels, down 47 percent.

Oat production is estimated at a record low 93.8 million bushels, 13 percent below the August 1 forecast and 18 percent below last year's 115 million bushels. The estimated yield is 59.5 bushels per acre, up 3.2 bushels from August but down 3.5 bushels from a year ago. Compared with last year, yields declined in nearly all States except for those in the eastern Great Lakes region, Ohio Valley, and the Pacific Northwest. Harvested area is a record low 1.58 million acres, 17 percent below the August 1 forecast and 14 percent below last year.

Barley production is estimated at 180 million bushels, down 2 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 15 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 61.0 bushels, is down 0.2 bushel from the previous forecast and 3.8 bushels below 2005. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 2.95 million acres, down 1 percent from August and 10 percent below a year ago. Area harvested for grain is the lowest since 1885, while production is the lowest since 1936. Harvested area is down in most States, including the four States with the largest acreage. Acreage harvested is down 90,000 in Idaho, 80,000 in Montana, 65,000 in North Dakota, and 15,000 in Washington. Production is down throughout the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, partly due to the decreased acreage, but also because yields are down in these areas due to dry conditions during most of the growing season. However, yields are higher than last year in the Pacific Northwest, Corn Belt, Ohio River Valley, and most Atlantic Coast States.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Field Crops: The data were compiled from 2 surveys, the Agricultural Resources Management Survey (ARMS) and Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). Targeted crops included corn, fall potatoes, oats, upland cotton, and soybeans. The Program States accounted for 82 to 93 percent of the U.S. acreage for these crops.

A limited number of restricted use herbicides were applied to field crops in 2005. The most commonly used herbicides were **Atrazine**, **Acetochlor**, and **Isoxaflutole** on 49, 23, and 6 percent of the acreage, respectively, to the acres planted to corn in the States surveyed.

A wide range of restricted use insecticides was used on corn, fall potatoes, soybeans, and upland cotton. **Cyfluthrin** was the most commonly used restricted insecticide, covering 29 percent of the fall potato acres; followed by **Esfenvalerate** and **Imidacloprid**, applied to 27 and 20 percent of the fall potatoes acreage, respectively. **Aldicarb** and

Dicrotophos, the next most utilized insecticides, were both applied to 19 percent of the upland cotton acreage. **Triphenyltin hydroxide**, was the only restricted use fungicide applied to any program field crop, as it was applied to 10 percent of the fall potato acreage. **Paraquat**, used as a defoliant, on 14 percent of the upland cotton acreage and 2 percent of the fall potato acreage was the most commonly applied Other Chemical.

Fruit Crops: Growers in 13 Program States were surveyed to obtain restricted chemical use data on 22 selected fruit crops in 2005. The data on restricted use applications cover the period immediately following harvest of the 2004 crop through harvest of the 2005 crop. Dates and figs were included in the survey but do not appear in the publication because there were no restricted use chemicals reported.

A limited number of restricted use herbicides were applied to fruit crops in 2005. The only restricted use herbicide applied was **Paraquat**, as it was applied to nearly every target crop, in percentages ranging from 1 percent of the grapefruit acreage to 76 percent of the raspberry acreage. A wide variety of restricted use insecticides were used on fruit crops. The most widely used insecticide was **Abamectin**, as it was applied to 66 percent of the pear acreage, 61 percent of the tangelos, and 58 percent of the grapefruit acreage; followed by **Esfenvalerate**, which was applied 49 percent of the nectarine acreage, 43 percent of the plums, and 37 percent of the peach acreage. **Bifenthrin** was applied to 70 percent of the raspberry acreage. **Azinphos-methyl** was applied to 60 percent of the tart cherry acreage. **Strychnine** was the most commonly used Other Chemical, applied to 19 percent of the avocado acreage.

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